



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZF-SAFE

24 MAY 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Safe Operations of Army Motor Vehicles

1. A recent Army Motor Vehicle accident on a Fort Hood range road resulted in several injuries when an LMTV overturned with Soldiers being transported in the cargo bed of the truck. Fortunately, no life was lost. The incident is still under investigation to determine exact causes. However, as a proactive measure, we need to reiterate and clarify some Army Motor Vehicle safety requirements to protect our Soldiers and equipment from accidental losses.

2. In addition to other Army Motor Vehicle safety standards, commanders and leaders will ensure that the following is accomplished, effective immediately:

a. Prior to any Army Motor Vehicle or tracked vehicle movement, a risk assessment will be completed by the leader responsible for the vehicle movement mission and the applicable controls briefed to all participant's understanding. Risk assessments will be updated as the mission, weather, or conditions change. Non-mission essential vehicle movements must be approved by the responsible senior NCO/officer. Responsible leaders must evaluate the availability and utilization of TCs for all vehicle movements.

b. Driver must possess a valid driver license. Drivers operating vehicles carrying hazardous cargo (ammunition, fuel, chemicals, etc.) must have completed the additional hazardous material driver training (annotated on license). Appropriate placards must be displayed on the vehicle.

c. Prior to movement, a before-operation check will be conducted and discrepancies corrected before moving the vehicle.

d. During adverse weather conditions that pose a risk to safety of personnel and equipment, vehicle movement will be limited to mission essential trips only.

e. Drivers will not drive for more than ten continuous hours, nor will the combined duty period exceed 12 hours in a 24-hour period without at least eight consecutive hours of rest. If more than ten hours are needed to complete a mission, a qualified assistant driver must be assigned.

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- f. Leaders must evaluate and designate safe sleeping positions in or around vehicles.
- g. The vehicle dispatch WILL be current.
- h. Applicable safety briefing will be given by the senior person on site.
- i. Rollover drills will be briefed by the TC and understood by ALL personnel on the vehicle.
- j. The TC (NCO or Officer) will account for the correct number of personnel loaded in the front cab and cargo area.
- k. The TC will ensure passengers are not carried with cargo.
- l. All personnel sitting in the cargo area will have a bench seat (not to exceed the max capacity of the vehicle type).
- m. Vehicles with limited rear visibility require a trained ground guide to back the vehicle. In congested areas such as assembly areas, bivouacs, maintenance/fuel points, etc, or areas where troops are known to be on the ground, all vehicles will be ground guided through the area.
- n. All personnel will wear available seatbelts when vehicle is in motion.
- o. All loose equipment in the cab and cargo area WILL be secured.
- p. Troop strap and cargo bows/tarp WILL be in place prior to movement when transporting Soldiers in the cargo area of trucks.
- q. In the training area, Soldiers will be in the correct uniform (Kevlar or ACH and OTV). Soldiers riding in the cargo beds of trucks will wear gloves. TC will ensure that personnel do not jump off of a vehicle when dismounting.
- r. No single vehicle movement, unless approved by the battalion commander or equivalent. The only exception is maintenance tests in the near vicinity of the maintenance facility.

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3. Leaders can find additional military driver safety resources at the Combat Readiness Center's website at <https://crc.army.mil/drivertrainingtoolbox>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hammond', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JEFFERY W. HAMMOND
Major General, USA
Senior Mission Commander

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IAW FH Form 1853: A